



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

OCT 22 2012

Kimberly D. Bose  
Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Stuyvesant Falls Hydroelectric Project - No. 2696-033

Dear Ms. Bose:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) September 2012 Draft Environmental Assessment for a new license to operate and maintain the Stuyvesant Falls Hydroelectric Project and increase its installed capacity from 2,800 kilowatts to 4,320 kilowatts. The Stuyvesant Falls Project is located on Kinderhook Creek near the Town of Stuyvesant in Columbia County, New York.

The project includes a 46-acre impoundment and uses the head created by the 13-foot-high Stuyvesant Falls dam and consists of: (1) a stone, concrete, and steel intake structure with a Taintor gate, trash sluice, and trash rack; (2) two 7.5-foot-diameter, 2,860-foot-long, riveted-steel penstocks that bypass the main channel of Kinderhook Creek and direct flow to the steel and brick powerhouse; (3) two single-runner Francis turbines (each with a nameplate capacity of 4,511 kilowatts) connected to two 2,100-kilowatt generators; and (4) a substation located directly adjacent to the powerhouse. The project last operated in a run-of-river mode with a normal impoundment drawdown not exceeding 1.3 feet.

The applicants, the Town of Stuyvesant and Albany Engineering Corporation, propose to operate both generating units in the powerhouse, and construct and operate a minimum flow unit at the project intake, for a total installed capacity of 4,320 kilowatts.

EPA concurs with FERC that issuance of a new license for the Stuyvesant Falls Hydroelectric Project, as proposed with additional FERC staff- recommended measures, would have no significant effect on the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment. If you have any questions, please contact Lingard Knutson of my staff at (212) 637-3747.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Grace Musumeci". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Grace Musumeci, Chief  
Environmental Review Section